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BELGRADE PROVED USEFUL DESPITE ACTIONS BY WEST'S ZEALOTS

LD240831Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 12, 17 Mar 78 pp 4-5 LD

[V. Kravtsov article: "Certain Lessons from the Belgrade Meeting"]

[Text] The meeting in Belgrade of representatives of the countries which signed the final act of the all-European conference has ended. And in the final analysis it ended on a positive note.

The gloomy predictions of "failure" that had been ringing out from the camp of the opponents of detente did not come true. The final document adopted by the meeting is not the formal communique of a few lines whose appearance ill-wishers and pessimists had been forecasting and which they wanted to pass off as an indicator of insuperable disagreements between East and West. The document carried quite definite political weight and is useful for peace and cooperation. Incidentally, it is easy to note that, in terms of its format and content, the document is quite close to the model draft final document submitted by the Soviet delegation back in mid-January when the final phase of the meeting began. This emphasizes once again the constructive mood and sense of realism with which the delegations of the USSR and other socialist states worked in Belgrade. It is possible to say, although not without reservations, that it is precisely these two components--constructiveness and realism--which ultimately prevailed at the meeting, despite the fact that at times the discussion assumed a sharp nature.

As is noted in the final document itself, the profound exchange of opinions at the Belgrade meeting "is a valuable contribution to the attainment of the objectives defined by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe although various opinions were voiced regarding the degree of fulfillment of the final act so far achieved."

In other words, the diplomats of 35 countries were not in session for several months in Belgrade in vain. On the whole the Belgrade meeting fulfilled its role as one of the interim links in the process of multilateral cooperation in Europe that was started at Helsinki. However, it was as such that it was conceived in the final act, and the Soviet Union and its allies had advocated that it should have precisely that kind of character--a very important but nevertheless a working forum.

At the same time, we must admit that after the Belgrade meeting some feeling of dissatisfaction has remained. It could, most likely, have done more. So why did this not happen? It seems that the answer here is very simple. Certain Western delegations tried to use the serious international talks not for their immediate purpose. The goals which those countries sought to achieve at Belgrade had nothing in common with the functions defined for this meeting by the spirit and letter of the final act, with the tasks of strengthening security and developing cooperation in Europe. It is no secret that in the past, too, certain Western states have mixed in a substantial dose of demagogy with the businesslike work of international forums. But it is perhaps difficult to remember an occasion where an international rostrum has been abused so shamelessly as at Belgrade for propaganda twaddle and for provoking the representatives of states in the same negotiating hall.

The urge to place narrow, mercenary and frequently purely domestic political considerations above the interests of business-like cooperation stemmed, as is already quite well known, primarily from the U.S. delegation. [paragraph continues]

It is difficult to avoid the impression, in particular, that the Americans were somehow trying to settle preelection accounts which could not be squared at home. It seems that it is easier to expatiate about "human rights" than to reduce unemployment or to curb inflation. But broader objectives could also be traced: to lead a massive psychological attack in Belgrade against the socialist countries; to try to "amend" the final act in order to secure the legalization of interference in their internal affairs and, failing that (which was evidently expected), at least to make some big propaganda capital.

Let us say bluntly: An attempt was made to transform the forum, which was designed to examine certain questions of the continued strengthening of security and the development of cooperation in Europe, into an arena for a dispute over essentially ideological questions and to link artificially interstate relations with polemics in the ideological sphere. Is this not indicated by the fact that, out of the entire very extensive group of Helsinki accords, the West artificially and arbitrarily extracted for propaganda purposes only the question of "human rights" and certain aspects of humanitarian cooperation? Matters reached the stage where the Western press and radio even christened the Belgrade meeting--quite wrongly--a "human rights meeting." Moreover, is this not demonstrated by the fact that the United States and its NATO partners failed to put forward even the merest proposal on the fundamental problems of peace, security, reducing military confrontation or relaxing the threat of war in Europe, but "in return" blocked all the socialist countries' initiatives in this sphere?

It is clear that carrying the ideological struggle into the international conference, which was provoked by the NATO leadership, to no small extent made its work more difficult and made it physically impossible--there simply was not enough time, since too much time was spent on polemics--to examine many of the questions the meeting should have studied. In the final analysis, the attempts at interference in internal affairs, as was clear from the outset, were not legitimate. The pressure on the socialist countries did not, and could not, yield anything. The Belgrade meeting nevertheless ended as an act of cooperation and not of dissension. All that is so, and all that is, of course, good. But it is impossible not to note that the Belgrade meeting was less useful than it could have been, and the reason for that is the same: the dogged efforts, which in fact went on right to the very end of the meeting, to divert it from a discussion of fundamental problems and to transform it into a propaganda arena.

How to behave in the future at international forums is a question which all those, including the allies of the United States, who are interested in continuing and consolidating detente in and beyond Europe, ought seriously to ask themselves. It is impossible to count on serious progress in talks if one of the sides is turning them into something of a propaganda show, provoking confrontation and trying to exert pressure. Surely it is clear that such methods are outmoded and have no place in times of detente and the establishment of interstate relations on the basis of equality and cooperation. One of the lessons of Belgrade which, we would like to hope, will be realized in the West is that it is hopeless to conduct a dialog with the socialist countries from a position of pressure. Toward the end of the meeting this, I think, proved to be obvious to everyone.

Now, immediately following that event, main attention is being drawn to a series of factors which confirm that the Belgrade meeting on the whole carried out the assignment defined for it by the Helsinki accords.

The exchange of opinions at Belgrade (and despite all attempts, the meeting was not diverted from the vital problems of European peace and cooperation and from the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and our allies) showed that detente is regarded not just by the socialist states, but by all the participants, as the main highway for further development of international relations which has no alternative.

The interest in detente and, more specifically, in the contribution which the Belgrade meeting might make to the policy of cooperation, proved to be greater for some states than for others, especially during the concluding stages of the meetings's work. But the characteristic feature is that no one decided to call into question the need to continue and strengthen the policy of detente.

The objective realities of the contemporary international situation came into their own. At the present time when there are many people fond of celebrating the demise of detente, this is of undoubted political significance. The Belgrade meeting did not become a major step along the path of detente and we know who bears responsibility for that. Everyone at Belgrade knew, for instance, which delegation opposed the positive solution to the question of calling together a special group of experts to discuss problems of military detente in Europe--it was not the delegation of any European country. But nevertheless, the forum fulfilled its function. An all-European course toward continued detente and cooperation was confirmed, including the final document.

It is precisely in this context--and this is one more item to the meeting's credit--that the role of the conference on security and cooperation was emphasized once again. The participant states "confirmed the determination of their governments to fully implement, unilaterally, bilaterally, and multilaterally, all the provisions of the final act." In other words, the attempt to revise the Helsinki accords and distort them so as to favor solely the NATO countries was repulsed at Belgrade. The final act of the all-European conference as the fundamental action program for strengthening security and developing cooperation in Europe which all signatories are obliged to implement, held out at Belgrade against all the attempts at dismantling it and emerged unscratched at the end of the meeting. Those like the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, who have invariably highly praised the final act, can only rejoice at this.

From various sources there emanated a desire to exaggerate the significance of the Belgrade meeting and literally make it a competitor of the all-European conference, which objectively could not fail to lead to belittling the latter's importance. Ultimately, however, everything fell into place and assumed its proper perspective. The meeting's final document was strictly subordinated to the final act and does not compete with it, but basically it concerns practical questions of the final act's implementation. Here too, commonsense prevailed.

Finally, the adopted recommendations concerning subsequent multilateral work--the creation of groups of experts for holding conferences on three specific questions (devising a generally acceptable method of settling disputes peacefully, a "scientific forum," and economic and cultural cooperation in the Mediterranean) must not be disregarded. The activity of these groups--if it is not obscured by factors which have nothing to do with the subject of the discussion--could prove to be useful.

The Soviet Union and its socialist allies have reason for believing that the concepts, approaches and specific proposals which they brought to the meeting have entirely justified themselves. The fact that the West did not accept these peace-loving initiatives by no means signifies that the socialist countries will cease their struggle for these initiatives. The very placing of the Soviet action program aimed at strengthening military detente in Europe, and of the proposals for the expansion of all-European cooperation in the sphere of environmental conservation, transportation and energy, and of certain other initiatives, at the focus of the meeting's attention was undoubtedly timely and necessary.

Even the actual submitting of them for discussion at Belgrade was undoubtedly necessary and important. By giving a due rebuff to antisocialist attacks under those difficult conditions while at the same time not letting themselves be drawn into senseless polemics and by doing everything in their power for a constructive outcome of the Belgrade conference, though of course not at the expense of fundamental concessions, the delegations of the socialist countries acted, as a rule, harmoniously, purposefully and usefully. If the Belgrade meeting was effective, it was to no small degree due to them.

The continuity of the process of interstate cooperation that was started at Helsinki in 1975 at the highest political level can be traced. As is known, the Belgrade meeting itself took place in accordance with the final act. It was confirmed at the Belgrade meeting that such meetings will be held in the future too. In 2.5 years Madrid will be receiving representatives of 35 states. The school of multilateral diplomacy is continuing, and this of course is consonant with the epoch in which states with different social systems are learning how to cooperate with each other more closely. It is necessary merely to derive the necessary experience from the lessons of Belgrade because what provokes caution is the fact that not having managed to drag a single one of their provocative proposals through into the final document, the unbidden "human rights" zealots are already "threatening" the return to all these themes at Madrid. And possibly, the first of these lessons is: Meetings like the Belgrade meeting must be devoted exclusively to those things for the sake of which they are convened and for the sake of which they are envisaged by the Helsinki accords--the improvement of states' interrelations, the strengthening of security and the development of cooperation in Europe, and the development of the process of detente in the future. And nothing else.

SOVIET MBFR SPOKESMAN VIEWS NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE

LD240850Y Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--Some circles in the West express the idea that the question of the neutron bomb be tabled at the Vienna talks on mutual arms and force reductions in central Europe. In this connection, PRAVDA's correspondent in Vienna writes, a question was asked at a press conference in Vienna whether it was really expected that this question would be included among the items on the agenda of the talks.

A spokesman for the Soviet delegation said:

Representatives of the socialist countries pointed out the special danger for peace in Europe and all over the world of plans for the development and deployment of the neutron weapon. If the implementation of these plans is allowed, a new trend in the nuclear arms race will open, there will be an increase in the level of military confrontation and trust among states will be undermined. All this is incompatible with the aims of the Vienna talks.

The task is to prevent the appearance of this new type of mass destruction weapons. Therefore, the USSR proposed that an agreement be reached on mutual renunciation of production of the neutron weapon. This stand is shared by all the socialist countries participating in the Vienna talks, which together with the Mongolian People's Republic tabled at the U.N. Disarmament Committee in Geneva a draft convention banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of the nuclear neutron weapon. Any attempts at connecting in some way or another the final settlement of the question of the neutron weapon with other questions, which have nothing to do with this matter, including those which are being examined in Vienna, are totally unacceptable for the socialist countries. They can only complicate the attainment of an agreement at the Vienna talks.

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR 'REAL STEPS' TOWARD DISARMAMENT

LD240534Y Moscow TASS in English 0515 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--The Soviet Union is doing everything to advance the talks on problems of limiting the arms race, PRAVDA stresses in its leading article. The USSR attaches special importance to the successful conclusion of the talks and signing of an agreement with the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive arms and of a treaty on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. The main thing now is to pass from talks on disarmament to real steps signifying the commencement of disarmament, the paper points out. Only such steps will really accord with the aspirations of the peoples which want lasting peace and condemn the arms race.

Noting that the Pentagon and the NATO military are harbouring plans of producing and deploying in Western Europe a new barbarous means of mass annihilation--neutron warheads and shells, PRAVDA writes: "These dangerous plans, if realised, would seriously complicate the situation in Europe and in the whole world, and bring about a new qualitative spiral in the arms race.

The paper exposes the slander and falsifications of Western propaganda that clamours about the socalled "Soviet threat," and notes that "the Peking leadership is singing in the same choir with the North Atlantic militaristic circles." The sixty years after the October Revolution have convincingly proved that the CPSU, the Soviet people have always been and always will be true to the cause of peace. "For us defence of peace means defence of socialism, defence of mankind's bright future," PRAVDA concludes.

DESPITE INTEGRATION CEMA STATES INVOLVED IN WORLD ECONOMY

LD231323Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by O. Bogomolov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "Main Direction"]

[Text] The socialist community countries have entered the new, third year of the 5-year plan. The results of economic development and the tasks for this year have been discussed at communist and workers party central committee plenums held in these countries and at sessions of their parliaments. As can be seen from these materials, the first 2 years of the 5-year plan were marked by the strengthening of positive trends in the development of world socialism and by the all-round progress of the socialist community countires. The internal situation remains dependable and stable, which does not mean, of course, that there are no problems here. But these problems are of quite a different nature from those in the capitalist world, and they are being resolved consistently and successfully in the interests of the working masses and world socialism as a whole. The stability of the socialist social system is in sharp contrast with the crisis phenomena within modern capitalism, which have been seriously exacerbated in recent years.

Following the Soviet Union, the socialist community countries are moving confidently toward a developed socialist society. Social production is growing rapidly, and the working people's material and cultural standards are rising. Progressive changes also characterize the development of the socioclass structure and social relations. At the same time the political system of socialist society is improving. The new USSR Constitution, which not only reflects the greatest achievements of socialism in our country but also takes into account the experience of social transformations in fraternal states, is giving a powerful new boost to the further improvement of socialist democracy.

It is hardly necessary to prove that the economic sphere is of key significance for the further successes of the new social system and for its strengthening as an international system.

V.I. Lenin emphasized that on coming to power the working people are faced with tremendous "creative work in setting up an extremely complex and intricate network of new organizational relations embracing planned production and the distribution of products essential for the existence of tens of millions of people." Resolving this task under modern conditions, the fraternal communist and workers parties make constant efforts to insure the maximum utilization of all potential for the rapid development and intensification of socialist production on the basis of the latest achievements of the scientific and technical revolution.

The dynamism of the economy of the socialist world is its most important and unquestionable advantage. In 1975-1977 the rate of increase in the national income of the CEMA countries was approximately twice that in develop capitalist countries, and approximately three times that for industrial output. In 1970-1976 there was a substantial increase in the CEMA countries' share of world production of the most important types of industrial output: from 29 to 34 percent for mineral fertilizers, for example; from 26 to 30 percent for steel; from 24 to 27 percent for cement; from 20 to 22 percent for electricity, and so forth.

As for agricultural production, its results in 1977 were considerably more favorable in the CEMA countries than in the 2 previous years.

The force of the example of such objective advantages of socialism as the social confidence of the working people, the steady rise in the people's living standards and balanced socioeconomic development has increased, particularly against the background of the gravest economic crisis of the postwar period in the countries of capitalism.

Per capita real incomes in the CEMA countries are increasing yearly. In 1977 the average increase in these incomes exceeded 3.5 percent. The rise in the population's well-being is increasingly becoming an important stimulus for rapid production growth.

Fulfillment of the plan targets for 1978 and the attainment of greater long-term goals depend to a considerable degree on efforts to improve national economic planning and management. A distinguishing feature of this process continues to be the desire to coordinate the improvement of management more closely with the socioeconomic policy which is being pursued, with the development of socialist democracy, the strengthening of conscious discipline and the enhancement of organization. The gradual reorientation of the economic mechanism toward resolving the problems of raising the efficiency and quality of all economic activity is at the center of the modern stage.

Special emphasis in plan management is laid on comprehensively raising the efficiency of capital investments and fixed capital and the quality and technical standard of output. The introduction of the latest achievements of science and technology is already insuring a sharp rise in the effectiveness of expenditure in social production, and scientific and technical progress is called upon to insure still greater returns in the future.

The results of the first 2 years of the 5-year plan and the plans for 1978 testify to the successful implementation of the long-term course, jointly elaborated by the socialist countries, on deepening their economic integration.

The realization of the aims and tasks outlined in this sphere promotes the further strengthening of the socialist community's economic might and the consolidation of the material base and political unity and cohesion of the fraternal countries. The implementation of additional opportunities for deepening the socialist division of labor is expressed, in particuar, in the considerable acceleration in the growth rates of foreign trade. In 1977 the trade turnover between CEMA countries increased approximately 17-19 percent. These countries are closely linked economically, as is indicated by the high proportion (56 percent in 1976) of reciprocal trade in their total foreign trade turnover.

Primary significance for the further deepening of the integration process is assumed by the elaboration and implementation of long-term targeted cooperation programs. This is a new, better and more profound method of managing foreign economic ties between socialist countries, in accordance with the demands of the present stage of their socio-economic and political development.

An important landmark in the implementation of the comprehensive program of socialist economic integration was the 31st CEMA session held in 1977, which discussed questions of the joint and coordinated resolution by the socialist community countries of key problems in meeting their requirements for fuel, energy, foodstuffs, consumer goods and modern machinery on the basis of long-term targeted programs. The session approved these countries' course toward all-round strengthening of their international solidarity.

At the present time CEMA countries are jointly constructing about 30 important projects in the fuel and energy, metallurgical and other sectors of industry. In machine building alone they have concluded 55 multilateral agreements on production specialization and collaboration, embracing about 5,000 articles. Substantial advances have also been made in cooperation on a bilateral basis. Hundreds of agreements have been concluded on production specialization and collaboration and similarly on scientific and technical research.

A substantial step forward in the business of integration will be made in 1978. In accordance with plans, the CEMA countries are to complete a large amount of work on the construction of the "Soyuz" main gas pipeline and other projects of the Orenburg gas-condensate complex. As is well known, this year the socialist community countries will already be receiving gas. The joint erection of the Ust-Ilimsk timber industry complex, mining and enrichment combines and other industrial projects on USSR territory, and of a copper and molybdenum enterprise in Mongolia will continue at full speed.

Socialist economic integration does not cut the CEMA countries off from the rest of the world. A course of active participation in the international division of labor has become a very important element for the socialist countries in their long-term economic programs and is organically incorporated in their efforts to maintain peace on earth. Today, hardly any Western economist will dare maintain that socialism is oriented toward self-sufficient development and isolation from the world economy. There are more and more sober-minded politicians who recognize the futility of erecting artificial barriers in relations with socialist states and the absurdity of rejecting the advantages of business cooperation.

Like it or not, it is impossible to count on the constructive resolution of major world problems--whether it be supplying mankind's growing demands for raw materials, fuel and foodstuffs, exploiting the resources of the oceans, conserving the environment or turning Europe into a continent of peace and neighborly relations--without the participation of the socialist countries and in defiance of their interests. Such is the reality dictating the need to intensify collaboration among the countries of the different systems.

The strengthening of the economic, political and military might of world socialism was the objective factor that caused a change in international politics. It was precisely the successes of real socialism which made the leading capitalist countries embark on the path of detente and begin to extend economic, scientific, technical and cultural contacts with socialist countries. Thus the facts confirm the correctness of the provision formulated in the CPSU Central Committee's report to the 25th Congress: "The development of the socialist countries, the growth of their might and the intensification of the beneficial influence they exert on international politics--that is what now constitutes the main direction of the social progress of mankind."

The Soviet Union and other fraternal countries achieved impressive successes in 1977. All the favorable conditions exist for the countries of our community to take another confident step forward this year in their progressive development along the path of building socialism and communism.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION SESSION

LD232238Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1855 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--A delegation of the USSR Parliamentary Group left Moscow today for a spring session of the organs of the Interparliamentary Union in Portugal. It is headed by Vitaliy Ruben, deputy chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

At the airport the delegation was seen off by Aleksey Shitikov, chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group, chairman of the Soviet of Unions of the USSR Surpeme Soviet.

UNITED STATES

CARTER ACCUSED OF DUPLICITY OVER ARMS CONTROL, SALES

LD232050Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1836 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 23 March, TASS--President James Carter has sent the U.S. Congress the annual report of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in which the results of its activity for 1977 are summed up.

Concerning the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic weapons, the agency notes that the agreement between the two countries in this area "can slow down and possibly bring to a halt the introduction of new systems of arms which are capable of destroying the strategic balance." The report points out that the "rivalry in the sphere of strategic arms is fraught with the danger of decreasing stability" and that carrying out talks directed at establishing mutually agreed limitations, under which neither of the sides will receive advantages, is the only alternative to rivalry.

However, the tone and the content of President James Carter's message accompanying this document bear witness to the fact that the American administration is essentially occupying a position of duplicity. On the one hand, the President identifies as one of the most essential tasks of arms control "the guaranteeing of stability in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union on a nuclear level." But on the other hand, he declares that U.S. "national security" policies must provide for "a strengthening of the military potential. In other words, he favors a continuation of the present course which is aimed at a further arms increase.

Carter's administration has increased military allocations, in spite of his campaign promises, by almost $10 billion. In fiscal 1979 they will reach the record level of about $130 billion. New types of arms are being developed, including cruise missiles, atomic submarines for the Trident system, mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles, new aircraft carriers and battleships, new types of nuclear warheads and XM-1 tanks.

In his message, the President states the importance of averting the global proliferation of nuclear weapons. Simultaneously, the United States is actively preparing not only to produce a new and monstrous means of mass annihilation--the neutron weapon--but also to deploy it in the NATO countries. The realization of these plans, which evoke indignation among the world's public, will inevitably lead to a new round in the arms race and to a further proliferation of weapons throughout the world.

The message expresses Washington's "concern" over the huge scale of international weapons trading and especially at the "regional arms increase." The facts, however, are such that it is precisely the United States which is one of the world's largest weapons traders. More and more of the most modern American weaponry is being sent to the explosive regions of the world. In its present financial year the United States will deliver abroad various types of arms worth a record $13.2 billion--almost $2 billion more than last year. More than half the military supplies are sent to the Near East and the countries of the Persian Gulf. The countries which receive them are mainly Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Over the last 6 years the United States has delivered to Israel alone various types of arms worth $7 billion. This year it has promised to dispatch to Israel another $1.8 billion worth of the most modern weapons. The rulers of Tel Aviv are using these supplies to conduct aggressive, expansionist policies with regard to their Arab neighbors. They are implementing the present invasion of Lebanon with the aid of American weapons.

Against the background of these facts, the President's statements that he is taking measures to "limit the handing over of American weapons" and "to reduce the volume of trade in weapons throughout the world" are evidently just words left hanging in the air.

DESPITE APPEARANCES, U.S.-ISRAELI VIEWS REMAIN IDENTICAL

LD231338Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Carter-Begin Talks End"]

[Text] Official talks between U.S. President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin have ended in Washington. A White House spokesman has stated that the final statement on the outcome of the Carter-Begin talks will be published later because there have been some difficulties in the drafting process, as he put it. This statement has been reported by the U.S. and other Western press and the Israeli press.

There is a widespread endeavor to give the impression that there now exist acute differences in viewpoints between the U.S. and Israeli sides on the main issues of the Middle East settlement. Some observers, including some from Cairo, (?indicate) that it is probable that there has been a major deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations. But it was President Carter himself who refuted even any hint of such a possibility. President Carter reasserted, for instance, that the United States will maintain its profound support for Israel's security. Begin has asked Washington to increase its military aid to Israel by 50 percent. Without taking this request into account, U.S. aid has already reached a massive scale. Today, the U.S. leaders boast that Israel is now militarily stronger than ever, and that it is militarily superior to its Arab neighbors.

What differences between United States and Israeli viewpoints can one predict when President Carter has supported the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon by not declaring any measures opposing Tel Aviv, which intends to keep the West Bank and other Arab territories occupied in 1967 and also to keep the existing settlements and to build new ones.

Furthermore, it is true that both Washington and Tel Aviv employ different tactics toward the Israeli-Egyptian separate talks, but both capitals insist that Cairo make fresh concessions to the aggressor's brazen claims. It is also observed that every time Begin goes overseas--his current visit is the third of this kind--the Western and Israeli press embarks on a clamorous propaganda campaign about the so-called differences in viewpoints. But it becomes evident each time that both Washington and Tel Aviv express identical trends in their aggressive anti-Arab policy.

'Balanced' U.S. Policy

LD140336Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Menahem Begin's visit to Washington ended without the usual cheers. According to President Carter it is a long way to peace in the Middle East. We bring you a commentary by our observer Igor Dmitriyev.

There was very little to cheer about. The separate talks have been bogged down a long time. In Washington they could hardly afford to embrace Menahem Begin while Israeli troops were still killing civilians in southern Lebanon. Despite attempts to present Israel's aggression in Lebanon as simple retaliation against the Palestinians, its scope and ferocity indicate that the invasion was planned in advance. It appears that Israel has not changed its attitude toward its Arab neighbors because of the separate talks, as some United States officials sought to prove. In fact, the separate talks have divided the Arab countries and helped Israel toughen its negotiating position.

Here are some examples: Israel refuses to withdraw from all the captured Arab territories. It claims it is entitled to its own interpretation of the United Nations resolution demanding a complete withdrawal. Israel refuses to dismantle its settlements in the occupied lands and refuses to deal with the PLO. Moreover, with Washington's silent consent it decided to eliminate the Palestinian factor by physically annihilating the PLO and its leaders. Given all this, President Carter was right to say that it was a long way to peace.

How does Washington help bring peace to this area, torn by wars, fears and suspicions? The new idea is a more balanced approach, with a show of friendship to both sides. To look like it is an impartial mediator and friend, Washington tries to please the Arabs by mildly criticizing Israel and even showing some detachment from it, and at the same time does its best not to hurt Israel. Such a policy takes a lot of skill and ingenuity, and Washington seems to have them in full measure. This President Carter did not denounce Israel's aggression against Lebanon, nor did he censure Israel for flouting the United Nations Security Council resolution demanding an Israeli withdrawal. At the same time, to show the Arabs that Americans are on their side, the United States administration decided to send tents and blankets to thousands of refugees who had fled the zone of fighting. Tents and blankets to the victims of the aggression, and bombs and jets to the aggressor! Such is Washington's impartiality. Imagine a Lebanese family wrapping themselves in United States-made blankets to keep warm in a tent only because their home was destroyed in an airraid in which the latest United States-built F-15 fighters had proven their high marks for accuracy bombing.

Israel's aggression against Lebanon indicates that Tel Aviv continues to play the role of a big stick to be used against the Arab countries. The separate talks is a convenient cover that helps Israel continue its policy of expansion at the expense of its neighbors. Has Washington really cooled on Israel? This question is asked by those who closely watched previous visits of the Israeli leaders to Washington and compare them with that of Mr Begin. I do not believe in any genuine estrangement between Washington and Tel Aviv. On a number of key issues their bonds are as strong as ever. Israel, for instance, continues to get all the weapons it wants from the United States on request. President Carter said during Menahem Begin's visit that Israel is stronger now than before, and it uses American weapons to hold on to the captured Arab lands and to invade the neighbors.

The overall situation in the Middle East is very different from what it was several years ago and even a year ago. Washington has dropped the idea of reaching a comprehensive settlement. Despite a joint Soviet-American statement issued in October last year in favor of such a settlement, Washington has switched its attention to the separate talks. For a long time there has been no progress, despite Washington's attempts to bring Egypt and Israel back to the negotiating table. Tensions persist, the separate talks are deadlocked, and peace is nowhere in sight. There was very little to cheer about in Washington during Menahem Begin's visit.

No Pressure on Israel

LD231850Y Moscow TASS in English 1832 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 23, TASS--Israel has finally refused to withdraw its troops from the occupied Western Bank of the River Jordan. This fact has been noted by the White House as a result of the negotiations between U.S. President James Carter and Israel's Prime Minister Begin, that have ended here.

The White House meetings were held amid the current talk on allegedly "strained relations" between Israel and the United States, caused by "acute differences" of the two capitals in the approach to the Middle East problem. But judging by pronouncements of the American press, the negotiations revealed more unanimity than any differences.

Washington did not denounce Israel's armed aggression against sovereign Lebanon, but actually backed this barbarous act. Commenting on what James Carter said, the newspaper Washington STAR writes about the United States' understanding of Israel's reaction (actually aggression) in the light of its requirements in ensuring its security. The President, the Baltimore STAR [as received] added, believes that Israel has done what was expected of it towards south Lebanon at the given stage.

The American side invariably emphasized its obligations in "ensuring" Israel's "security". An official spokesman of the U.S. Government said at a press-conference that the President assured Begin of the U.S. devotion to the cause of ensuring Israel's security, which is a fundamental principle of the American policy.

The results of Begin's visit to Washington have dashed the hopes of some Arab leaders that the White House would exert "pressure" upon Israel to make it give up the extremist line, have become for them a major political miscalculation. Begin, the newspaper Baltimore STAR [as received] stresses, remains unflinching pertaining to Israel's demands to as-Sadat.

Israel's Foreign Minister Dayan, who also participated in the negotiations at the White House, said upon his return to Tel Aviv from Washington today: "This time there has been no indication, even the slightest that the United States exerts any pressure upon Israel."

U.S. REORIENTS STRATEGIC INTERESTS FROM ISRAEL TO SAUDIS

LD231233Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by political observer A. Bovin: "Contours of the 'Policy of Balance'"]

[Text] Talks are commencing in Washington between Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin and U.S. President J. Carter. The interlocutors' attention will be centered on the Egyptian-Israeli dialog and on its condition and prospects, particularly in the light of the recent events in south Lebanon. Begin will apparently try to persuade the U.S. President not to trust as-Sadat too much and not to "squeeze" Israel too hard. The President in turn will undoubtedly have to persuade Begin not to be too stubborn but to display political wisdom, farsightedness and so forth.

In all probability the concrete political results of the Washington talks will total zero or thereabouts. The occupation of Lebanese territories by Israeli troops has once again emphasized the completely detrimental nature of as-Sadat's "initiative." But the problem goes deeper. The results of the talks will be affected by the complex political and psychological background against which U.S.-Israeli relations should now be considered.

Official Washington is greeting Begin with contradictory feelings. As always, there is no shortage of compliments or recognition of all sorts of Israeli "merits." But there is the hint of a chill of mistrust behind the protocol of hospitality and the ritual phrases about friendship. Many Americans are sick of the Israeli visitors, who are eternally asking for something and demanding something and are eternally dissatisfied with something. If you discard the husk of words and the diplomatic strategems over the "interpretation" of Resolution 242, the crux of the matter boils down to a simple, obvious fact: The aggressor is insisting that Washington help him retain the fruits of aggression. This is the crux of the matter, which cannot be denied by political eloquence.

And an equally obvious fact is that Washington politicians, while loudly proclaiming their adherence to the principles of morality and justice, have been actively financing and arming the aggressor for many years. The motives? They do not hide them. [paragraph continued]

Well, of course, there are the United States "strategic interests" in the Near East, the desire to curb "Soviet expansionism" and "moral commitments" to Israel. They are much more reluctant to mention the pressure from the pro-Israeli lobby, which frequently forces Washington to act against U.S. interests proper.

All the drawbacks of the one-sided orientation and the virtual dependence of U.S. policy on Israeli policy became obvious at the end of 1973, when Arab oil was balanced against "moral commitment." Despite all talk of morality, oil is oil, and Kissinger began political maneuvering aimed at "balancing" U.S. policy and arranging contacts with Israel's Arab opponents, above all Egypt. The evolution to the right of the Egyptian regime, which began at approximately the same time and, accordingly, its policy of worsening Soviet-Egyptian relations, facilitated the resolution of Washington's task.

Cairo believed the Americans' assurances that they and they alone would be able to make Israel listen to reason. As-Sadat began advertising himself as almost the "best friend" of Nixon, then of Ford and now of Carter. The recent White House decision--bitterly bemoaned in Israel--to sell Egypt some 50 combat aircraft demonstrates that the United States is continuing to balance its Near East policy.

Organizing cooperation with the present Egyptian leadership is, it seems to me, a decorative political facade. As-Sadat is a reluctant partner forced by circumstances. Strictly speaking, he has already done what he was supposed to do: taken up anti-Soviet positions and split the unity of the Arab world. But his past "leftwing", anti-Zionist (and recently anti-imperialist) declamation and impulsiveness are hampering the long-term calculations of Washington strategists.

It is certainly not relations with the present Cairo leadership that lie at the heart of these calculations. However impressive the sight of the Egyptian pyramids, the smell of oil impresses more strongly. Therefore Cairo is a very important, but nonetheless transit stop, while Riyadh is the terminus. That is where the "secret" of U.S. Near East strategy is hidden. The United States receives one-fourth of all its imported oil from Saudi Arabia. World oil prices depend to a considerable degree on Saudi Arabia's stance. Saudi Arabia is the bulwark of the most reactionary forces in the Arab world. Backed by tens of billions of petrodollars, Saudi Arabia is increasingly active in "big" politics and lays claim to the leading role in the Arab world and even throughout the Moslem world.

Washington could not immediately recognize the fact that Saudi Arabia is no longer a "no-man's" desert gushing oil, with hundreds of obedient shaykhs. The arrogant, threatening tones of past superiority would occasionally creep into the statements of certain U.S. politicians. But on the whole, the new situation was understood correctly. When angry voices were heard from Riyadh--we actively support U.S. policy, they said, but the United States neglects our interests--Washington quickly turned over a new leaf: not some obsolete F-5E's, which Egypt was to receive, but 60 brand new F-15's were promised to Saudi Arabia....

It would probably be premature to attach great political significance to the estrangement which has become apparent between Washington and Tel Aviv. The ties between them are strong enough. It is no accident that the United States has virtually supported Israel's aggressive actions in south Lebanon, which have filled the whole world with indignation. But, for me, the continuing strategic reorientation of the United States is beyond doubt. A genuine balance of strategic interests is being groped for in relations with Israel and Saudi Arabia. How will this influence Israeli-U.S. relations? Obviously, Begin will be interested to hear the answer to this question in Washington.

MOBILE STRIKE FORCE COULD TAKE OVER SINAI AIRPORT

LD231410Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] According to the magazine U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, U.S. strategists have placed three divisions at the disposal of the Pentagon's mobile strike force. The magazine believes they could be used in Western Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and South Korea.

The Eastern Mediterranean, which includes the Near East, occupies an important place in these plans. According to the Pentagon's plans, the United States should take control of one of the major Israeli airports in the occupied Sinai Peninsula. The Israeli-Egyptian separate agreement could grant a legal right for such an acquisition. The U.S. presence in Sinai will make it possible to interfere quickly in any conflict in the area.

U.S. AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES TO S. AFRICA BREAK UN EMBARGO

LD232146Y Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 23, TASS--In violation of the U.N. decision, the United States continues to supply the South African racists with military equipment. According to the press, the American federal government endorsed a new deal with the racist regime signed by the aircraft companies Cessna, Piper and some others. The deal provides for the delivery to Pretoria of 80 aircraft which, though classified as civil, may be used for military purposes. The press writes that the aircraft of the Cessna Company are widely used by the South African Government in its struggle against the national liberation movement in Namibia. This new deal is estimated at 3.5 million dollars. The Washington POST reports that recently South Africa has been buying in the United States some 150 aircraft a year. The actions of the U.S. administration are in contradiction with the U.N. embargo on arms and other equipment to Pretoria, which was supported, among other countries, by the U.S.A.

BRITAIN'S CALLAGHAN ARRIVES IN U.S. FOR TALKS

LD240746Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0001 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] British Prime Minister Callaghan has arrived in the American capital on a visit. He will have talks with President Carter and other U.S. Government leaders. This visit is taking place against the background of a further sharpening of the economic, financial and monetary crisis being experienced by Western countries. Observers point out that one of the main questions in the American-British talks will be the continuing drop in the exchange rate of the dollar.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORTS RECORD PAYMENTS DEFICIT

LD231852Y Moscow TASS in English 1848 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 23, TASS--The deficit of the United States' balance of payments in the last quarter of 1977 was unprecedented--7,030 million dollars. This has been disclosed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The total deficit of the balance of payments in the whole of 1977 reached an astronomical sum of 20,200 million dollars. The biggest deficit in the balance of payments before that was registered in 1972--9,900 million dollars.

Specialists believe that such a state of the U.S. balance of payments will inevitably further weaken the U.S. dollar's standing at foreign money markets. Really, the dollar value rate today dropped again, as compared with all main Western currencies, except the pound of sterling. Thus, at the Frankfurt am Main money market one dollar today was sold for 2.0372 West German marks. To back the U.S. currency the German Federal Bank (FRG) again purchased 11,250,000 U.S. dollars. 10 million dollars were purchased on Wednesday.

REPUBLICANS RETURN TO COLD WAR TACTICS IN CAMPAIGNING

LD232100Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

["In Goldwater's Footsteps"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--Political observer Sergey Kulik writes: It is evident that U.S. Republican leaders have decided upon Africa as the area in which they hope to find the support necessary to guide American public opinion toward the position they favor. Obviously, it is precisely for this reason that the African policy of Washington's present administration has become one of the main objects of their criticism.

No, the Republicans are not criticizing the Democrats because their government is supplying arms to the aggressor in the Horn of Africa, supporting South African racists, backing those who are weaving intrigues against Angola and actively interfering in the internal affairs of independent African states. Hammering out their political credo on the eve of the forthcoming midterm congressional elections, the Republicans are pouncing on the administration for just the opposite, for being "insufficiently active", according to them, in pursuing such a policy. Lacing their criticism with a fair portion of anti-Sovietism, they are clearly flirting with those forces in the United States which are not interested in detente and in improving Soviet-American relations.

Familiarization with the document, entitled "Evaluation of Carter's Policy in Africa," published on 22 March in Washington by the Republican Party, leads to precisely such a conclusion. The African theme, to all appearances, is only an attempt by the authors of this document to further complicate the prospects for achieving Soviet-American agreements on a number of major international problems.

Indeed, attacking the Carter administration for its policy in the Horn of Africa, William Brock, chairman of the Republican National Committee, demanded that the U.S. Government make the continuation of the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic offensive arms and the development of trade between the USSR and the United States conditional upon the termination of Soviet support for the victims of the aggressive policy of other countries. The inadmissibility of such "ties" [uvyazki] is obvious. Something else is also obvious. It is evident that the Republican leaders are heading toward a return to the "cold war," to the policies of "the worse, the better." It was not so long ago that they formulated their campaign platform on military questions, which urged an intensification of the arms race and was highly skeptical of the prospects of detente. Now they are also scrutinizing the situation in Africa in the light of the same general political concepts. Here African affairs are of interest to them only to the extent that they can serve as an occasion to whip up international tension.

This implies that the Soviet people should be more interested in detente and disarmament than the American people and that the reason for the failures of U.S. policy in Africa and in other continents is due to the fact that the United States is supplying few arms there, rather than the fact that, for some reason, it supports the most conservative, aggressive and expansionist regimes.

In general, if one discards "African local color" one should note: The Republicans are beginning their present pre-election campaign with the same position taken by presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. However, as is known, in taking up these positions he has won neither laurels nor success. They will hardly be won by those who are now following his example.

DEMONSTRATORS DEMAND FREEDOM FOR 'POLITICAL PRISONERS'

LD231103Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Correspondent Ye. Rusakov report: "Demonstration at the White House"]

[Text] Washington, 19 March--The black fence of the White House is surrounded by a circle of demonstrators. There are mounted police on Pennsylvania Avenue. Many voices are shouting in unison: "Human rights begin at home!"; "freedom for the Wilmington 10, J. Harris, A. Shakur, G. Merrit!"; "freedom for all political prisoners in the United States!" Taking part in the march were more than 8,000 people from Mississippi, Washington, New York, North Carolina, Chicago, Boston.... On the same day, mass demonstrations also took place in San Francisco, Denver, Honolulu and other cities.

Having completed two circles of the White House, the participants in the march assemble in Lafayette Park. Elizabeth Chavis, mother of Ben Chavis, leader of the "Wilmington 10," reads the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, reminding the administration of the rights and principles proclaimed by the "founding fathers" of America, which are being systematically violated today.

"Brothers and sisters in the struggle," Elizabeth Chavis begins to read a message from her son, "our hearts are with you today. On behalf of the Wilmington 10, on behalf of the Charlotte three, on behalf of George Merrit, Assata Shakur and many other U.S. political prisoners, I thank you for your support and assure you that even behind bars, we will continue the struggle for the freedom of all the oppressed. The movement for the release of the Wilmington 10 is an important link in the struggle for human rights. Our courts cannot insure justice. Only the people's will can free political prisoners. The outcome of this struggle will determine, to a significant degree, the future of civil rights in the United States. It is an indisputable fact that the charges against the Wilmington 10 were fabricated with one purpose--to frighten people and suppress the civil rights movement. Today I ask President Carter: Whose side are you on? Can you keep quiet about the Wilmington 10 and talk seriously about human rights? If you are sincere, then free all political prisoners here in the United States!"

On the platform there is a young man with light brown hair who is wearing a jacket. He is Congressman Don Edwards.

"I am speaking on behalf of 75 members of the U.S. House of Representatives--Democrats and Republicans--who sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Bell stating that the case of the Wilmington 10 is a matter for the federal authorities," he says. "If the authorities in individual states do not insure the observance of their citizens' rights, then under the Constitution the federal government must intervene. That is our demand to the White House and President Carter. We await their actions. Your march today is one more step helping to achieve the fulfillment of that demand."

The participants in the march give a warm reception to Angela Davis who, together with Ben Chavis, heads the National League of Fighters Against Racial and Political Repression. She describes how the movement for the liberation of the Wilmington 10 and all political prisoners is growing broader throughout the country.

Calling for the release of civil rights fighters, Angela Davis states: "It would take a long time to name all the political prisoners and all the people whose rights are being violated. Yet the man who proclaims human rights keeps quiet about the country in which they are being systematically and flagrantly flouted--America. It would take a long time to enumerate all the scars on American society. Raising our voice in defense of the Wilmington 10, we are coming out against all the injustices of American society."

"Freedom for the Wilmington 10 !", "freedom for political prisoners!"--these slogans ring out over Lafayette Park, over Washington, and all over America.

NEW BOOK CITES U.S. SUPPRESSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS, FREEDOMS

LD231351Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[TASS report: "Justice Serves Reaction"]

[Text] New York, 9 March--The suppression of Americans' civil rights and political repression are an integral part of U.S. life. This is the conclusion one draws from a book published here entitled "Freedom and National Security. Secrecy and Surveillance."

The book uses extensive factual material to reveal the history of the suppression of civil rights and freedoms in the United States by the repressive legal apparatus. On the basis of decisions by lower courts and by the U.S. Supreme Court and American presidential decrees, the authors show that the "interests of national security" and the threat of so-called "internal subversion" are commonly used as pretexts for an offensive against Americans' rights and freedoms. M. Halperin, one of the book's authors, was himself a victim of intensive surveillance.

It is clear from the research that the repression by the U.S. legal and police apparatus is directed mainly against members of the Communist Party of the United States and representatives of progressive public and trade union organizations. On the basis of antidemocratic laws such as the Smith act on "internal security," "control of communist activity" and "control of subversive activity," many Americans have been dismissed from work, brought before the courts and thrown in prison. As for Indians, Negroes and Americans of Puerto Rican and Mexican extraction, they are subjected to particularly unceremonious discrimination and oppression.

It is clear from an analysis of the numerous court cases quoted in the book that an extensive and all-embracing arsenal of repressive laws has been created in order to suppress political dissidence and citizens' rights and freedoms in the United States. However, the authors note, the supreme legal authorities are surprisingly silent when it comes to illegal federal actions involving surveillance of Americans. U.S. Congress has not adopted any laws limiting or in any way controlling this surveillance, Halperin and Hoffman stress.

SOVIET PEOPLE PROTEST JOHN HARRIS DEATH SENTENCE

LD221800Y Moscow TASS in English 1728 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 22, TASS--Soviet people strongly protest against the intention of the American authorities to carry out the death sentence passed on the black worker John Harris and demand his immediate release. "By signing the terrible sentence, the United States judiciary again demonstrated the true countenance of American 'democracy'" says a letter to TASS from Yuriy Ivanov, a worker at the Kirovsky Zavod Association in Leningrad.

"Official America has covered itself with infamy by imprisoning civil rights champions, among them John Harris. Reactionaries, all those who like to talk about 'freedom of the individual', are prepared to commit any crime in their attempts to break the movement of working people demanding better living conditions and an end to racial discrimination".

"We have seen numerous evidence of the falsity of American 'democracy'. The workers Sacco and Vanzetti, Reverend Martin Luther King and others have perished as victims of political artibrariness in the United States", states Tamara Gerasimova, a worker at the state farm named after the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Komsomol in Novgorod region. "Now a death sentence has been passed on John Harris, whose only guilt is that he was born black and struggled for the civil rights of rightless fellow countrymen. Official America hypocritically tries to lecture the world on how to 'observe civil rights', but itself violates them most flagrantly".

"The American obscurantists will not succeed in intimidating the participants in the struggle against oppression and rightlessness in the country, for democracy and justice. Soviet people demand that the hand of the executioners be stayed".

COMMERCIAL 'AIR WAR' CONTINUES AMONG WESTERN NATIONS

LD191800Y Moscow TASS in English 1736 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 19, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports: The White House announced that a new agreement has been reached by the USA and Britain to regulate airflights between the two countries. It benefits American air carriers, which can now more freely manipulate prices on tickets and charter flights between the USA and Western Europe, as it will put their West European competitors in a difficult position. Britain had for long resisted the agreement and agreed only under Washington's pressure, with threats in regard to British air transport companies making transatlantic flights to different U.S. cities.

The elaboration of a similar agreement on air flights between the U.S. and the Netherlands has been completed and it will be signed in a few days. This agreement, too, benefits the American airlines mainly.

The United States is now waging an "air war" on several fronts at once, including one against Japan. The civil aviation council of the USA suggested that the Japan airlines reduce the number of its flights after the Japanese Government denied permits to the cargo aircraft of the American Flying Tiger Lines to land at Tokyo airports. At present Japan is trying to get the unequal Japano-American agreement on civil aviation reviewed. It was concluded a quarter of a century ago, during the American occupation. Negotiations on the matter started last autumn but proceed slowly, because of the American side's reluctance to give up the privileges enjoyed by American airlines.

U.S. CONDUCTS UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST IN NEVADA

LD232103Y Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 23, TASS--The United States has made an underground nuclear explosion on a testing range in Nevada. The power of the nuclear device, according to a representative of the U.S. Department of Energy, was within 20-150 kilotonnes.

This is the second U.S. nuclear explosion this year.

PETROV ON SIGNIFICANCE OF PRC'S LATEST NUCLEAR TEST

LD231910Y Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

["Peking's Sinister Symbols"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksey Petrov writes: It has been noted in the world that Peking held its yet another nuclear weapon test in the atmosphere almost immediately after the completion of a session of the National People's Congress, which approved the course of turning China by the end of the century into "a great and mighty power", and consolidated this course in the new Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

Is it not a symbolic gesture designed to indicate through which ways the present Peking leadership plans to attain a great-power status, by what priorities it intends to be guided by in furthering its aims? This question is raised by the world public which remembers well that the Chinese leaders refused point-blank to join the international treaty on ending nuclear tests in three media and pointedly demonstrate the intention to actively continue developing and perfecting their nuclear potential.

Doubts concerning Peking's plans are by no means abstract. They are fed by other facts of the recent days.

Questions pertaining to the military sphere, to the Peking leadership-formulated objective of an accelerated modernisation of the armed forces came into the center of events in China after the session of the National People's Congress. These questions keynoted the directive speeches of Chinese leaders and articles in the Peking press on the occasion of the opening on March 18 of an all-China conference on questions of science, and also the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Academy of Military Sciences of the People's Republic of China. It is symptomatic that Peking's official report on a nuclear test having been made was delayed for a few days until the day before the opening of the conference on science. What is it--also an indication in what direction science and technology will be developing in China?

One should think this is so since in a joint article of the leading Peking editorial offices and speeches, made at the conference by deputies Prime Minister Teng Hsiao-ping and Wang Chen it is stressed that accelerated development of modern science and technology, including atomic research, electronic computer and laser equipment is a "key aspect" of turning China into a mighty modern power, of a rapid buildup of its military might. Since in the article, printed in the magazine HUNCHI, written by "the theoretical group" of the Chinese Army's General Staff, it is openly stated that "for a certain period we shall be still lagging behind the main enemies in our provision with arms" but it is necessary "while retaining, combat readiness, to develop plans of building up forces and, making up for what has been lost, to change this unfavourable position as soon as possible." Since under the Peking leadership's slogan, now advanced: "to adopt from others' accomplishments of advanced science and technology" its emissaries multiply contacts with military and scientific-technical circles of Western countries in order to get most up-to-date military equipment and technology.

Such are facts, such are plans. In their light the involuntary desire is to reiterate: maybe, the nuclear explosion made in China the lethal clouds of which are running to densely-populated countries of Asia and the Pacific basin is a symbol, an omen of even more sinister clouds of militarism that are gathering in that part of the globe.?" [quote mark as received]

PRC SEEKS CONCILIATION IN ASIA YET SUPPORTS INSURGENTS

LD231213Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Skosyrev article: "A Double-Bottomed Policy"]

[Text] China's relations with the states of south and Southeast Asia is again at the center of attention of many foreign press organs. Interest in this subject is natural. This year Peking has sharply activated contacts with its neighbors in that region. Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, has been to Burma and Nepal, and a delegation headed by Wang Ping-nan, chairman of the People's Friendship Association, has visited Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. Finally, the other day Li Hsien-nien, vice premier of the State Council, paid a visit to the Philippines.

What has brought about this upsurge in diplomatic activity by Peking this question is being asked by observers in Asian capitals. Many of them note that the Chinese leadership is launching a campaign to win friends in the region which they traditionally consider to be the sphere of their particular interests. The reference to "particular interests" is no accident. As early as 1965 Mao Tse-tung was calling for Southeast Asia, rich in natural resources, to be "kept in hand."

This instruction of Mao's casts light on the motives of many of Peking's actions. It is worth recalling, for instance, the operation by PRC naval forces on the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, the incursion of Chinese troops into India and China's support of antigovernment insurgents in several independent Asian states. It is not surprising that relations between the PRC and many neighboring states have been extremely strained for a long time. According to the Indian prime minister, to this day China is occupying 15,000 square miles of Indian territory.

But perhaps this policy belongs to yesterday and the present PRC leaders have renounced the Maoist course of establishing hegemony in Asia? Let us turn to the facts. It is not 2 months since Teng Hsiao-ping, during his visit to Burma, spoke of the friendship linking China to that country, yet pro-Peking insurgents are regrouping their forces for a new attack in northeast Burma. According to press reports, the concentration of insurgent detachments which is threatening two Burmese cities near the Chinese border became possible only because China increased military and other assistance to its agents in Burma.

In the Philippines underground detachments of a pro-Maoist grouping calling itself the "New People's Army" have become active. They are carrying out attacks in remote provinces on state institutions and are disseminating Maoist literature. As for India, radio braodcasts and other Peking propaganda organs clearly testify that the Chinese leadership is not about to return to the territory seized in 1962. Nor does it intend to stop its support for separatists among the leaders of certain tribes living in the Indian state of Nagaland.

Indochina is another region where the Maoists have applied themselves to fueling a hotbed of tension. It is well known that Cambodian detachments carrying out attacks on peaceful Vietnamese villages are equipped with Chinese weapons.

Such is the real state of affairs regarding the "campaign to win friends" being launched by Peking. For all its insignificant modifications the Maoists' policy is directed as before toward establishing Chinese dominion in Asia.

PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON MILITARY SCIENCE SLANDERS USSR

OW231247Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] On 15 March, PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an article by Yeh Chien-ying marking the 20th anniversary of the Chinese Academy of Military Science. In this article, Yeh Chien-ying viciously slandered Soviet military theory as reactionary, decadent and plagued with insurmountable weaknesses. General (Kosyakov) writes:

Soviet military science is one of the important factors for inhancing the fighting strength of the Soviet Armed Forces and their preparedness for war. It was and is one of the dependable prerequisites for fulfilling the national defense tasks. This was particularly demonstrated in the Soviet people's great war in defense of their country against Hitlerite fascism and later in their defeat of Japanese militarism.

Soviet military theory lays great stress on the study of the contemporary military situation and the nature of wars and military conflicts provoked by imperialism. World imperialism has always been the primary cause of war. During the period since the great war alone, the chieftains of the NATO imperialist bloc have provoked over 40 regional wars and military conflicts. As a rule, in the capitalist countries of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, military science and theory are reactionary and anticommunist in nature. The capitalist countries' military science and theory are based on the destruction of the world socialist system by the imperialist forces of aggression so that they can impose their political and economic will on other countries.

The military science and theory of the world's first socialist state are exactly the contrary. Soviet military science and theory are based on the progressive idea of defending the socialist achievements of the working people, peace, and the security of all peoples. Therefore, how can they be reactionary and decadent as Yeh Chien-ying alleged in his 15 March article? Dear Chinese soldiers, you are now aware that such allegations are entirely groundless.

Yeh's statement that Soviet military science contains insurmountable weaknesses cannot stand any scrutiny either. If it is truly so, if it lags behind the times, then how were we able to build such powerful armed forces as the Soviet Army, Navy and Air Force equipped with the latest scientific and technological equipment? Soviet military science's strength also lies in its joint studies with authoritative military scientists of the fraternal socialist countries and the theorists and historians of the Warsaw Pact countries, thereby enabling them to achieve a common view on the nature of possible wars provoked by imperialism, map out common methods of warfare, and fully train the armed forces of each member country of the socialist community so as to achieve common readiness to smash the aggressors under modern combat conditions.

MITIN VIEWS PRC PROBLEMS IN SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT

OW231625Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1030 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Mitin commentary: "The True and False Prospects of China's Scientific Development"]

[Text] The authorities in Peking have held many conferences and have loudly bragged that the situation is getting better and better. The material released on China's national science conference points out that China's scientific development has begun a new era of elevation and development. Fang I said this in his report at the science conference.

In my opinion,,this magnificent statement is nothing but politically motivated self-commendation by the Chinese leaders. Judging from China's national conference on science and technology and China's actual capability in this field, such an overly optimistic attitude is groundless. Here I cite the views of foreign experts on China's science and technology. Not long ago, the New York TIMES carried the views of several American scientists who visited China in 1977. The paper pointed out that these scientists were permitted extensive visits to China's scientific and technological units and laboratories and observed research at universities. What were their comments on China's scientific research? They concluded that aside from certain confidential areas, China's scientific development is generally at the level attained by the United States in the 1940's. In other words, it lags about 30 to 40 years behind the world level. The problem is not merely the present backwardness in scientific research work. What is more serious, according to these American scientists, is the fact that China doesn't even have the minimum industrial foundation for building modern scientific equipment. Without this foundation, it is impossible to do major research. For instance, the American guests were surprised at the simple facilities and handmade instruments and equipment at research institutes and laboratories. They cannot by any means meet the needs of modern research.

The leaders in Peking have also created political problems in the field of science. According to foreign experts who visited China, scientific workers are constantly pressured by local and central authorities to achieve good results in their research work as quickly as possible. The New York TIMES said: Many Chinese research personnel learned their lesson in the past when they were persecuted by the running dogs of Mao Tse-tung. Now they are still afraid of being criticized. They are always afraid of admitting failure in tests and often make false reports on their achievements in order to avoid being reprimanded.

My friends, I believe you will agree with me that this psychological factor is extremely harmful to scientific work. An atmosphere of fear and blind obedience still prevails in China's scientific circles, which is harmful to advanced and creative scientific research work. Peking's leaders want scientists to work like shining cogs which never rust. In order to reach the goals announced by Peking, Chinese leaders now want to curry favor with scientists and say that science plays a great role in promoting the four modernizations. However, these nice words cannot eliminate the distrust between the authorities and intellectuals which resulted from carrying out Mao Tse-tung's revolutionary line. The present Chinese leaders, like their predecessors, are also Maoists. This alone will make scientific personnel doubt the promises and statements of their masters at Chungnanhai. This is why some of the scientists and professional people who were sent to the countryside by Mao Tse-tung to integrate with workers, peasants and soldiers are reluctant to return to the cities. In a recent speech, Chinese Minister of Education Liu Hsi-yao admitted this fact. He said: Past campaigns pressed intellectuals so hard that even those who had supported us are now rejecting us. They use their knowledge instead of swords and rifles to resist us.

Although there is a very unhealthy political atmosphere in China, the present Chinese leaders want to promote the development of science from its current standstill in this same atmosphere. PEOPLE'S DAILY carried a report on Szechwan Province in early March which said that cadres are afraid of implementing the party's policy toward intellectuals because they are afraid of committing rightist mistakes. My friends, you can see that it is still too early to talk about the elevation and development of science in China today because the situation in this field is not as good as it is said to be by the Chinese leaders in their self-glorification. Besides, due to Mao Tse-tung's wanton destruction, there is a great shortage of scientific cadres on China's higher education front.

WOJTASZEK ENDS VISIT TO AUSTRIA; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD232026Y Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Vienna, March 23, TASS--The official visit by the Polish foreign minister, Emil Wojtaszek, to Austria, is over. During the visit, he conducted talks with the Austrian foreign minister, Willibald Pahr, on the further development of relations between the two countries in different fields.

A communique published here says that during the talks the two sides had a broad exchange of opinions on international issues of mutual interest, as well as on expanding Polish-Austrian relations.

The Austrian Republic and the Polish People's Republic expressed their determination to make efforts at the complete implementation of all the provisions of the final act of the European conference, which presents an important contribution to strengthening security and developing cooperation in Europe. Both sides stressed the importance of the Belgrade meeting for developing detente.

The foreign ministers of Austria and Poland expressed their unanimous view that the political detente must be matched by steps in the military field. They confirmed the will of the Austrian Republic and the Polish People's Republic to press for concrete steps to end the arms race, especially of the mass destruction weapons.

The two sides expressed their hope for a successful completion of the Soviet-American talks on limiting strategic offensive weapons, as well as for concrete results at the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

The communique stresses the favourable development of bilateral relations between Austria and Poland and underlines the necessity of utilising all possibilities for expanding cooperation in economy, industry, and on the markets of other countries.

L'HUMANITE LINKS MORO KIDNAPING, CIA ACTIVITIES

LD231738Y Moscow TASS in English 1715 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Test] Rome, March 23, TASS--A search has been under way for the second week for whereabouts of Aldo Moro, chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party, former chairman of the Council of Ministers, kidnaped by unknown persons in Rome on March 16. Tens of thousands of policemen are involved in the search which is under way throughout the country. Railway and air terminals in the capital and all big towns are under uninterrupted surveillance. Security forces are combing the quarters where the kidnappers may keep Aldo Moro in detention. But, the press points out the search so far produces no results.

The kidnaping of a prominent politician, it is noted here, is a challenge to the whole of the democratic public, the republican institutions of Italy. The task of struggle against political banditism has been put to the forefront of activities of the new government and the recently-formed parliamentary majority, which also includes the Italian Communist Party. The left forces of the country favourably responded to the March 21 law on stronger measures to protect public order.

Paris, March 23, TASS--Without the interference of foreign secret services, it would have been difficult to think over and carry through so skilfully such an operation as the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, the newspaper L'HUMANITE writes today. This requires so many participants, so much money and so many assistants, that isolated groups could have hardly done the job. It is nobody's secret, the newspaper writes, that the Central Intelligence Agency is actively operating in the Apennines Peninsula. L'HUMANITE recalls that in 1977 the Italian press laid bare American agents in provoking disorders in Bologna. Among students of Italian universities there are now thousands of American students--members of the National Student Association of the United States, and the Central Intelligence Agency recruits its agents from among that organization.

Besides, the newspaper writes, is it possible to imagine that NATO, which has a big naval base in Naples, would display indifference to the present development of events in Italy?

FRENCH LEFT RADICALS CRITICIZED FOR DROPPING JOINT PROGRAM

LD2311O7Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[L. Volodin dispatch: "Parliamentary Election Results"]

[Text] Paris--The second round of the parliamentary elections was held in France Sunday. Just 423 of the 491 National Assembly deputies were elected in it (68 deputies were elected in the first round).

The minister of the interior announced the final results of the two rounds after midnight. The ruling coalition parties which had put forward a single candidate almost everywhere obtained 291 seats in the National Assembly. The parties of the Union of the Left obtained 199 seats and a representative of extreme left groupings retained 1 seat.

Thus the ruling coalition has retained its National Assembly majority and will be able once again to form a government. The Gaullist Rally for the Republic now has 148 deputies and the Union for French Democracy, which unites the Republicans, the Social Democrats and the Rightwing Radicals, has 137 seats. The representatives of various rightwing groupings obtained six seats.

However, certain ruling coalition parties sustained definite losses by comparison with the previous parliamentary elections in 1973. The Gaullists will have 36 fewer deputies in the new National Assembly.

At the same time the Communist Party's Representation has increased by 14 seats. Its deputies will now occupy 86 seats in the Palais Bourbon instead of the 72 obtained in the previous elections. The Socialist Party has gained 15 new parliamentary mandates. The representatives of the Left Radicals Movement obtained 10 seats.

On television appearances many commentators and politicians have stressed that the distribution of seats in the National Assembly does not accord with the real weight of political forces in the country. The leaders of the leftwing opposition stress that the parliamentary elections, while they gave the government coalition the advantage, nevertheless confirmed voters' strong support for the program of socioeconomic transformations which the leftwing parties put forward.

So all the more surprise has been evoked by the statement of R. Fabre, leader of the Left Radicals Movement, who has announced that he regards his party as "freed from the commitments of the 1972 Joint Program" although, he says, it will continue the struggle against rightwing forces. This decision has been condemned not only by the Communist and Socialist parties but also within the ranks of the Left Radicals Movement itself. The leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties have reaffirmed their determination to continue to strengthen the Union of the Left on the basis of the Joint Program.

In a television statement French Communist Party Secretary General G. Marchais noted that the correlation of forces remained the same as a result of the elections. After the elections, as before, Marchais said, the Communist Party will struggle resolutely for the working people's interests and will implement its policy of strengthening the leftwing forces.

CUNHAL ATTACKS PORTUGUESE POLICIES AT BARREIRO MEETING

LD231115Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Lisbon, 20 March TASS--A. Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP], has condemned the political course of the Socialist Party and Social Democratic Center Party government coalition, which is continuing the policy of reestablishing the positions of capitalism in the country. Addressing a meeting in the city of Barreiro, he stressed that the present government, like the last one-party ocialist cabinet, is doomed to failure.

Portuguese reality, the PCP secretary general pointed out, confirms that in order to overcome the crisis it is essential to pursue the financial and economic policy suggested by the PCP.

A. Cunhal noted the importance of the recent PCP conference devoted to questions of defending and developing the nationalized sector. "That conference," he said, "confirmed once again that the working people and their party can propose an alternative to the present policy and this alternative will make it possible to overcome the crisis." The PCP secretary general called for strengthening the unity of the workers' and people's movement.

A. Cunhal criticized the government's actions and plans leading to Portugal's being subordinated to the interests of the Common Market and the United States to the detriment of the development of friendship and cooperation with other countries. "A serious obstacle on the path of the development of relations with the socialist states," he said, "is the malicious campaign of slander and attacks which is being constantly waged against these states by the Portuguese mass media."

PORTUGUESE INTEREST IN IMPROVED TRADE TIES NOTED

LD240917Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Dispatch by special correspondents L. Agapov and G. Deynichenko: "The Month of Mimosas"]

[Excerpts] Lisbon, Moscow--En route to Oporto we stopped at a small place located around the (Efasek) electrical equipment plant. It delivers part of its output to the Soviet Union. Soviet trade representatives are well known not only in the industrial north of Portugal but also in the traditionally agricultural regions of the south of the country. [paragraph continues]

Firm economic links are becoming established, the structure of Soviet-Portuguese foreign trade is taking shape and a basis for future cooperation is being laid. Shipbuilders at the country's largest shipyard, the Lisnave shipyard in Lisbon, are already counting on the arrival of a Soviet ship for repairs, and agricultural cooperatives have included Soviet organizations among their reliable customers. Soviet exports to Portugal are also growing. And Soviet-Portuguese economic relations are only 3 years old.

The time has come to think of a specific program of trade and economic cooperation designed to last a number of years, and one which would transcend purely trade deals. Many Portuguese traders agree with this view.

Not that it is just representatives of business circles who are speaking out for the development of Soviet-Portuguese relations. Parliamentarians, politicians, representatives of the government coalition parties as well as of the opposition--that is, the right opposition--readily discuss the necessity, mutual benefit and usefulness of moving toward an expansion of links between our countries in the most diverse spheres of life.

In a break between parliamentary sessions we were kindly received by Vasco da Gama Fernandes, chairman of the Assembly of the Republic. He highly praised the role of parliamentary links in the development of Soviet-Portuguese relations. Both countries, as is known, have already exchanged parliamentary delegations.

"I am sure that such visits can only contribute to mutual understanding and the expansion of our relations," the chairman of the assembly emphasized.

In relating our meetings in Portugal we have no wish to create the impression that establishing Soviet-Portuguese relations is a straightforward process. The 50 years of inertia of the former regime, which strongly smeared our country and system, has an effect. The political ambitions of certain circles in present-day Portugal who look to their country's future exclusively through the lens of "Atlanticism" and anti-Sovietism, also have an effect. Representatives of those circles will readily discuss the development of bilateral relations with the USSR and even recall the Helsinki accords, but at the same time they will not conceal the fact that their real aim is not equal cooperation but to create conditions for ideological sabotage against the socialist countries.

The rightwing bourgeois press of Portugal seizes on any anti-Soviet fabrications of imperialist propaganda and does not stop at whipping up malicious slander campaigns. At the very end of February journalist Vera Logoa and former Captain Tomas Roza, well known for their links with profascist elements, came out with an extremely peculiar "initiative," proposing the holding of a conference in Lisbon devoted to..."the Russian threat." It was decided to invite to the meeting some French and Italian political subversives and also so-called "dissidents" who had been thrown out of socialist countries. This "initiative," which in no way contribues to the strengthening of Soviet-Portuguese relations, had the support of leaders of a number of political parties, including the Social Democratic Center Party belonging to the government coalition.

Portuguese communists and democratic forces in the country regard such acts as a blatant contradiction of the program officially announced by the government, which promised to develop relations with the Soviet Union. Working people, we were told by Carlos Rento, a leader of the Portuguese Communst Party parliamentary faction, intend to insure that this promise is kept.

...The first month of spring in Portugal is called the month of Mimosas. This is now the fourth spring of the Portuguese revolution, which swept away the corrupt regime of Salazar and his successor and led the country out of the state of political lethargy and international isolation onto the path of democratization and normalization of relations with the outside world. Some people in Portugal would like to stop that process, but when a broad central avenue in the capital--the Avenida da Liberdade--is packed from one side to the other with 200,000 people loudly chanting antifascist slogans, as on the day of the solemn reburial of the remains of those who perished in the death camp on Tarrafal Island, then it is clear to any unprejudiced observer that there can be no return to the past. The people of Portugal are prepared to uphold the gains of the revolution, including the relations which are beginning to be increasingly firmly established with a new world still not fully known to them--the world of socialism.

FRG POLITICIANS STAGE PROVOCATIONS IN W. BERLIN

LD231200Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] West Berlin has of late again become a venue for provocative actions by a number of political figures of the FRG who are against turning the city into a place of peace and detente. Our correspondent Georgiy Smelenchuk reports from West Berlin:

Over the last 2 weeks the town has been inundated with guest artists from the world of politics. They are flying in here to hold, far beyond FRG boundaries, their working sessions, conferences and seminars. On the banks of the Spree, in the former Reichstage building, a session was held by FRG land ministers on environmental protection. They were replaced by the West German group of the EEC which discussed issues of international private [chastnyy] law. The FRG flag was then raised over the building as a sign that the Bundestag Economic Commission was holding deliberations. West German parliamentarians decided to have here a discussion of matters having no relation whatsoever to the problems of West Berlin.

The provocative nature of these gatherings is obvious. Indeed, it is not even being concealed by certain of the particularly eager political intriguers. Thus, Wissmann, chairman of the Junge Union--the Christian Democratic Union [CDU]--who, by the way, is also taking part in a session of his organization in the city, said directly with a revanchist passion that West Berlin is a part of the FRG and that young CDU people will continue to do everything to prove this to the whole world.

The Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin roundly condemns these provocations. In the view of the party and all the city's progressive public, West German political figures must not forget that West Berlin, as is confirmed in the quadrapartite agreement, is not and will not be in the future a constituent part of the FRG and cannot be governed by it. West Berlin is not the place for political demonstrations the meaning of which is quite clear and directed against the cause of detente.

USSR-BRITAIN HOLD LONG-TERM ECONOMIC TALKS

LD231720Y Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 23, TASS--Long-term prospects of economic cooperation between Britain and the Soviet Union have largely improved thanks to fruitful and business discussions between a Soviet delegation and representatives of the confederation of the British industry.

This is how the newspaper GUARDIAN appraises today the first Anglo-Soviet seminar on industrial, trade and economic cooperation that has ended here. The seminar was held within the framework of a long-term programme of development of economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Britain, signed during the Moscow summit negotiations in 1975. At a press-conference, held here, Dzherman Gvishiani, the head of the Soviet delegation, deputy chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Science and Technology, emphasised that the discussions with representatives of British business circles held in the course of the seminar were useful and constructive. These important discussions will undoubtedly help boost trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Discussed were prospects of cooperation in industry, trade and economy. Both sides are convinced that there are untapped reserves in these spheres, the head of the Soviet delegation said. Analysing prospects of development of Anglo-Soviet trade and economic cooperation, the newspapers FINANCIAL TIMES and TIMES point to usefulness of the seminar discussion for the development of links between the Soviet Union and Britain. Prospects of Anglo-Soviet trade are favourable, the newspaper MORNING STAR writes editorially.

DEBATE ON UK DEFENSE EXPENDITURE REPORTED

LD231055Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Vsevold Ovchinnikov dispatch: "Debate and Spending"]

[Text] London--A debate on defense questions has taken place in the British Parliament's House of Commons. The plan outlined by the government for increasing the country's military spending by 15 percent over the forthcoming 5-year period, in accordance with NATO's demands, was criticized both by the conservatives and also by the left wing of the Labor Party. Some 75 Labor members of Parliament called upon the House to condemn the plan for expanding the military budget, which, they are convinced, "will exacerbate international tension, divert resources which are vitally necessary for social needs, and also hamper the fulfillment of the present government's preelection pledges."

As for the Conservatives, they took up arms against the government's defense policy from diametrically opposite positions. The essence of a speech by opposition spokesman Ian Gilmour amounted to the allegation that during the 3.5 years that the Labor Party has been in power it has made excessive cuts in defense and "has damaged the security of the United Kingdom." Let us recall for your information that these have been very peculiar decreases. The country's military spending has almost doubled over the 3.5 years: from 3,612,000,000 pounds sterling in 1974-1975 to 6,919,000,000 pounds sterling in 1978-1979. The Conservative's complaints about the country's spending too little for military purposes have been followed, as usual, by hackneyed fabrications about the growing threat from the Soviet Union, which is allegedly seeking "military domination in Europe," and by demands for new appropriations for military needs. Replying to these fabrications, Frank Allaun, the leader of the Labor for Peace group, stressed during the debate that it is precisely the arms race that is posing a threat to mankind by pushing the world toward nuclear war. Only recently seven major television broadcasts have been devoted to substantiating the need to increase NATO's budget. In the DAILY TELEGRAPH alone 67 articles have appeared painting a picture of the Soviet military threat as a pretext for the arms race. I am fed up with the daily propaganda calling for a increase in military appropriations, the deputy chairman of the Labor Party's National Executive declared, when addressing the members of the House of Commons. Reflecting the mood of the peace-loving public of the country, Frank Allaun called for consideration of L.I. Brezhnev's proposal that production of new types of weapons of mass destruction be renounced, and he stressed that so far the West has not replied to this important initiative.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON ISRAEL'S MOVE INTO LEBANON

Situation Remains Tense

LD231535Y Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 23, TASS--The situation in the south of Lebanon remains tense. As is reported by the Palestinian information agency, last night and this morning Israeli troops continued bombarding areas north and east of the occupied territory of south Lebanon.

A military communique of the Palestine Liberation Organization points out that Israeli artillery and tanks in the past 24 hours have been shelling the towns of An-Nabatiyah and Tyre and also the positions of the Palestine resistance movement and the national-patriotic forces in the areas of the settlements of Marj 'Ujun, (?Tellat), Qula'ah. Israeli tanks are concentrating north-west of the Lebanese-Israeli frontier in the area of the Hanitah settlement, and tank columns are advancing in the area of Al-'Urqub and Shab'a. Fighter-bombers of the Israeli Air Force, including most up-to-date F-15s, that have been recently supplied to Israel by the United States, makes flights over and fired from the air at positions of the Palestine resistance movement and the national-patriotic forces. Exchanges of fire and skirmishes were the bitterest in north-eastern parts of south Lebanon, where Israeli troops tried to make an advance.

U.N. troops started arriving in Lebanon in accordance with the Security Council's resolution. The first contingent of 100 Iranian servicemen passed yesterday to south Lebanon through Israel. 200 French paratroopers arrived in Beirut this morning.

The coordination committee, made of representatives of Lebanon and the command of the international troops, has held its first meeting. Measures were discussed to further the resolution of the U.N. Security Council.

The Lebanese Government is taking urgent measures to give relief to refugees from the south. A wave of violence and terror, outrages of the Israeli occupation troops on the captured territory, compel even bigger numbers of civilians to go northward.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has had a meeting with representatives of 8 states and discussed with them consequences of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and also the Security Council's resolution on stationing the U.N. force in the south of Lebanon. He said that withdrawal of Israel's troops from the occupied Lebanese territory was of priority significance for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Refugees Number 265,000

LD240834Y Moscow TASS in English 0807 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 24, TASS--According to official data, the number of refugees--Lebanese and Palestinians--who had to abandon their homes in southern Lebanon as a result of the Israeli aggression reached 265,000. Thousands of people whose houses were destroyed by the Israeli occupiers found refuge in many tent towns that sprang up on the outskirts of Sayda and Beirut.

CPSU DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VISIT TO LEBANON

LD231157Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A delegation headed by A.F. Gudkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Kurskiy Obkom, returned to Moscow from Beirut 20 March.

The delegation had been in the Republic of Lebanon at the invitation of the leadership of the Communist Party and Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL RECEIVES HUNGARIAN DELEGATION

LD231506Y Moscow TASS in English 1433 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 23, TASS--The entire responsibility for the new aggression in southern Lebanon rests with Israel, which must immediately withdraw its forces from the territory of Lebanon, said 'Abd al-Ahmar, the deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria, at a meeting with the visiting delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, headed by Jeno Fock, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party.

Al-Ahmar emphasized that (?Syria) was exerting efforts for a just peace settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

BRIEFS

SOVIET-KUWAITI AIRLINE AGREEMENT--Kuwait, March 23, TASS--Negotiations on establishing an air service between the Soviet Union and Kuwait have been concluded here by delegations of the two countries. The negotiations, held in a businesslike, friendly atmosphere, ended in signing of an intergovernmental agreement on a regular air service. Regular "Aeroflot" flights to Kuwait and via it to countries of Asia and Africa are planned to be started in mid-1978. [Text][Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

U.S. OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY ENDS 5-DAY TALKS IN MOGADISCIO

LD231412Y Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 23, TASS--According to reports from Mogadiscio, five-day talks between Richard Moose, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Somali leaders came to a close there. Originally this special envoy of the U.S. President intended to stay in Somalia for only two or three days. As the New York TIMES newspaper writes today, the U.S. delegation's departure was delayed in view of the attempts to reach agreement with President Siad Barre on the question of deliveries of U.S. weapons to Somalia.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA

Frontline States' Meeting

LD231810Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The leaders of the five African frontline states will discuss the Rhodesian problem when they meet in the Tanzanian capital at the end of the week. The meeting will also be attended by the leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Here is what Radio Moscow news analyst Vladimir Petrov has to say about the situation that developed on the eve of the meeting in Dar es Salaam:

In the opinion of Ndabaningi Sithole and other participants of the recent farce of the setting-up of a so-called Executive Council in Salisbury, the debate is over and the Rhodesian problem is solved. The Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and the African frontline states, however, are of a different opinion and their views are shared by such a key body of the United Nations as the Security Council. It declares the deal in Salisbury as unlawful and unacceptable and also urged all countries not to recognize the so-called internal settlement. Why, then, did the Salisbury puppets persist in claiming that the deal is indeed a Rhodesian settlement? They can't but realize that their position is unnatural and unstable.

Apparently, everything boils down to the evolution that the stand of Britain and the United States has undergone and there are all signs of that evolution. At first, they rejected the interim settlement but already in the Security Council they abstained when a resolution denouncing the deal was put to a vote. What's more, a representative of the British Foreign Office said his government is ready de facto to have dealings with the Executive Council set up in Salisbury. There are certain shifts in the position of the United States as well. Washington is no longer as categoric in its statements about the farce in Rhodesia.

Are there any differences in the positions of the British and American diplomacy on the one hand and the unlawful regime of Salisbury on the other? Actually, none at all. What Britain and the United States want was known long ago. They want a pro-Western government in Rhodesia, and such a regime has now been practically set up in the country. The differences are only in tactics. The United States and Britain are well aware of the fact that if they speak out clearly in favor of Smith and his followers that would put an end to their lengthy maneuvers, and they need the delay tactics in order to give time to the puppet government to stand more firmly on its feet. At present, the main objective of London and Washington is to prevent the growth of the armed struggle of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, which would inevitably result in forming an anti-imperialist government in Zimbabwe and strengthening the progressive tendencies in the south of the African Continent.

In practice, that would mean ending the domination of the Western monopolies in that part of Africa. There would also be a threat to the existence of the stronghold of racists in South Africa. So the Western diplomats have to maneuver, in the hope of drawing the African patriots into a compromise or, simply speaking, in betraying the real interests of the Zimbabwe people. One thing is clear: The coming meeting in Dar es Salaam, which might well be the last chance for peaceful settlement of the Rhodesian problem, is not going to follow the pattern worked out by the West.

Young's African Tour

LD232344Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Smith, the ringleader of the Rhodesian racists, and his assistants from among the African puppets--Sithole, Muzorewa and Chirau--have played out a spectacle in Salisbury entitled: Ceremony of Assumption of Office of Members of the Executive Council. This council, according to the Smith internal settlement plan, is to play the role of a collective head of the provisional government, but with Smith remaining Rhodesia's prime minister. The ceremony in Salisbury means that the Smith clique has set about implementing its neocolonialist plans in spite of the protests of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and the UN Security Council resolution.

A representative of the British Foreign Office announced in London that the Government of Great Britain is ready to have de facto dealings with the Executive Council set up in Salisbury.

The United States, undertaking efforts in the same direction, has sent Andrew Young, its UN representative, on an African tour. Young has already visited Tanzania and Zambia and has satisfied himself again that the frontline states--as the countries adjacent to the racist regimes are called--categorically reject all attempts by Smith to force through the internal settlement with the aid of the puppets. The frontline states, like all of freedom-loving Africa, believe that it is impossible to solve the Rhodesian problem without the participation of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, which has been recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the African majority of the country's population.

Patriotic Front Successes

LD231910Y Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 23, TASS--The liberation struggle of the Zimbabwe people against the illegal regime of the white minority is getting momentum under the leadership of the Patriotic Front.

A communique published here by the Patriotic Front writes of new military successes of the patriots. Over the past four months, the front has killed over 380 officers and men of the Smith army. During operations in different parts of the country, the patriots destroyed three major military bases of the racists--"Grand Reef", Njamaranda and Njamaropa. Racists have also lost a great number of weapons and machinery, including four Dakota planes, four helicopters and 36 military trucks. Railway lines were cut in a number of areas. Eight trains carrying strategic loads were derailed, and three bridges destroyed.

The patriotic forces, says the communique, liberated from the so-called "reinforced villages", which are actually concentration camps, 750,000 citizens of Zimbabwe. At the moment, nearly two million people live in the areas controlled by the front.

The successes of the patriots force the racists to sit and wait in reinforced camps and cities. The control zone of the racist army is continually shrinking. The whole population of the country assist the Patriotic Front in its struggle against the racist army. Thousands of peasants and workers, despite repressions, are actively helping the patriots.

WEST'S SUPPORT OF 'WRONG SIDE' IN AFRICA ANALYZED

LD231329Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[A. Maslennikov article: "Don't Support That Side, Gentlemen!"]

[Text] The Washington POST has published an article analyzing the reasons for the failures of Western policy in Africa. Recalling the deplorable development of events in the Horn of Africa as far as the United States and its allies are concerned, the article's author concludes that they "did not support the right side."

The same danger, in his opinion, threatens the West in Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa where NATO's allies are coming out, with varying degrees of openness, in support of the regimes based on racism and apartheid. Noting that the so-called "internal settlement" in Rhodesia has been rejected by representatives of this country's indigenous population and by the majority of other countries of black Africa, the author writes: "The West will be on the wrong side again if it supports Smith's formula, since the 'internal settlement' is obviously a trick aimed at insuring that the whites continue to make real decisions in Rhodesia."

Displaying deep concern for his m[illegible]rs' interests, the author of the article tries to help them avoid a repetition of the[illegible] past mistakes. For this, he says, the United States and the other Western countries must renounce their reliance on "those who are doomed to failure" and "expand...their support for those African leaders in Rhodesia and other countries whom their fellow-countrymen cannot accuse of betrayal."

But in giving this advice the author is involuntarily merely confirming the fact that both in Africa and on other continents Washington and its allies invariably act with the racists, reactionaries and traitors to the people in the struggle against the forces of progress, democracy and national liberation. And this is no accident, for it is dictated by the very nature of imperialism.

SRI LANKA CP LEADER ADDRESSES PARTY CONGRESS

LD231820Y Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Colombo, March 23, TASS--The 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka [SLCP] continues to work here. The delegates are discussing the draft resolutions on the political situation in the country and the present situation in the world.

The steady growth of the world socialist system's might is the most important feature of the present-day international situation, the congress was told by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the SLCP, Pieter Keuneman. The world socialist system is the decisive force in international development along the road of strengthening peace, national liberation and social progress, he said.

At the same time he said, the contribution by the socialist community to the cause of world development would have been greater had the Communist Party of China and the PRC followed a common course with other socialist countries. After the death of Mao Tse-tung the SLCP attentively followed the situation in China to see if any steps would be taken by it to restore unity with the world communist and workers' movement, the speaker went on.

But we must note with regret that this did not happen, he said. The recent session of the National People's Congress demonstrated that China continues the Maoist line based on anti-Sovietism, chauvinism and hostility to other fraternal parties, on active cooperation with the most reactionary circles of imperialism and on glorification of war as against the policy of detente.

We believe that it is absolutely necessary to expose Maoism in every way and to struggle against it, stressed the general secretary of the SLCP. At the same time we strongly support all practical proposals and efforts directed at normalising relations between socialist countries and the PRC. For this reason, he stressed, we welcome the principled line taken by the CPSU and the Soviet Union, which found its reflection in the speech by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev at the celebration meeting in Moscow to mark the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution, and also other concrete steps by the CPSU and the Soviet Government in this direction. We note with regret that these efforts are being rudely rejected by the Chinese side, Pieter Keuneman noted.

We sincerely hope that the Chinese people realizes the baleful consequences of the Maoist policy for universal peace and social progress and will positively assess the efforts of socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, to normalize relations.

Our party, the speaker said in conclusion, rejects all attempts directed at undermining the international communist and workers' movement, whatever their origin. We hold that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the party of the great Lenin, is the leading force of the contemporary progressive movement in the world. We highly appreciate its contribution to the cause of peace, national liberation and socialism, Pieter Keuneman said.

INDOCHINA

CAMBODIAN FORCES ATTACK VIETNAMESE CITIZENS IN SONG BE

LD2317322 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 23, TASS--Over 200 Vietnamese citizens, including women and children, became victims of another attack by Kampuchean forces against Vietnamese border villages in the Song Be Province, north of Ho Chi Minh City.

VNA reported an attack of the soldiers of the 93rd regiment of the Eastern Military District of Kampuchea against the villagers of the Hung Phuoc and Tien Hung communities, eight kilometres from the border, at dawn March 16.

Every family in the Sa Trach village of the Hung Phuoc community lost at least two of its members. Many families were annihilated completely. The attackers burnt hundreds of houses in the communities, looted the property of their victims and drove away cattle.

This barbarous raid, reports VNA, was retaliated by the local military forces and the People's Guard of the Song Be Province, who drove away the invaders from the Vietnamese territory inflicting substantial losses on the enemy.

The government and the population of the area help the villagers of the Hung Phuoc and Tien Hung communities to eliminate the consequences of the attack by Kampuchean forces. The wounded were taken to hospital in the province and Ho Chi Minh City, reports VNA.

RAZUMOV-LED CPSU DELEGATION STUDIES PARTY WORK IN VIETNAM

LD2015599 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty links between the CPSU and Communist Party of Vietnam, a delegation of CPSU party workers headed by Ye.Z. Razumov, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section, was in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam 7-16 March familiarizing itself with the Communist Party of Vietnam's experience in party organizational work. The delegation was received by Le Duc Tho, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, had talks in sections of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and in the party committees of Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong City and of Quang Ninh Province, and visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises.

JAPANESE MASSES DISFAVOR FUTILE TERRITORIAL DEMAND

OW240409Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0330 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Yuriy Afonin commentary]

[Excerpts] The Soviet proposal for concluding a treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation with Japan was born of an ardent desire to establish truly good relations between the two countries. The proposal was advanced with due consideration for the fact that at present Japan is not ready to sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union; therefore, a treaty of good neighborlinees and cooperation would not, of course, supersede a peace treaty.

The treaty the Soviet Union is now proposing encompasses quite broad and significant areas of Soviet-Japanese relations, which have developed sufficiently to be placed on the firm foundation of a treaty or to be codified in a treaty. Signing a treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation would deepen mutual trust between the Soviet Union and Japan and prompt [words indistinct] for peace treaty negotiations. Regrettably, however, the Soviet Union's good will is misunderstood in Japan. An official Japanese representative has gone so far as to declare that the Soviet Union tries to turn Japan into a satellite under a treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation.

The Japanese Government has decided not to study the Soviet proposal at all under the pretext that it does not meet the Japanese rulers' territorial demands on the Soviet Union. This is a very strange attitude because in the fisheries question Japan is not only willing to sign a treaty with the Soviet Union but actually proposes a draft treaty.

Some people in Japan even say that the Soviet-proposed draft of the treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation has not drawn the Japanese people's attention and sympathy. They base their allegation on the fact that the Soviet proposal does not meet Japan's territorial demands. These people distort the Japanese people's view by saying that meeting the Japanese people's territorial demands is the only way to develop Japanese-Soviet relations. Numerous facts disprove this sort of allegation. It is a well-known fact that many fishermen on Hokkaido regard the territorial demand, made to the Soviet Union in the name of the Japanese people, as an obstacle to the development of true Japanese-Soviet cooperation on fisheries.

Let me take another example. According to a YOMIURI SHIMBUN opinion poll on 4 and 5 March, more than one-third of the respondents, or 35.4 percent, called for flexibility in dealing with the Soviet Union and were not wedded to the package return of the four islands, while 42.3 percent insisted that Japan should demand the package return of the four islands. Thus, according to the YOMIURI SHIMBUN poll, less than half of the people surveyed support Japan's territorial demand against the Soviet Union even though this is presented as if it were a unanimous demand and desire of all Japanese people. Yet, these are the findings of an opinion poll which was conducted after huge sums of money and dozens of years had been spent for extensive propaganda campaigns.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN said that even a Japanese Government official was surprised by the fact that so many people expressed a desire for the government to take a more flexible attitude. The results of YOMIURI SHIMBUN's opinion poll leads us to the conclusion that the futile policy of advancing a hopeless territorial demand to the Soviet Union does not enjoy the support of the Japanese masses.

It is by no means accidental that so many of the people surveyed supported a flexible policy toward the Soviet Union. As a matter of fact, this reflects the desire of a broad section of the Japanese people to have truly good neighborly relations with the Soviet Union in the interest of the two peoples.

Of course, the Foreign Ministry can cautiously hide the Soviet draft of the proposed treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation in its safes, but it cannot close its eyes and pretend that the question of good neighborly relations with the Soviet Union is totally nonexistent. A forward-looking policy is necessary for further developing Japanese-Soviet relations. The Soviet Union introduced such a policy in the form of a draft treaty of good neighborliness and cooperation. It is now Japan's turn to show that it wants to develop friendly relations with the Soviet Union beyond mere words.

JAPAN-EEC NEGOTIATIONS ENTAGLED IN CONTRADICTIONS

LD232015Y Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 23, TASS--The current negotiations between representatives of Japan and EEC countries have got entangled in a labyrinth of irreconcilable trade-and-economic contradictions. The sides today were not even able to come to terms concerning the wording of the final communique.

"The marathon negotiations" between Tokyo and the Nine have been under way almost uninterruptedly in the past few months. It is indicative that both the EEC and Japan are unwilling to meet half-way each other's demands, but only make small concessions which by no means change the trade disporportions between the sides.

The EEC leaders demand that Japan should eliminate its favourable balance in trade with the Nine, which last year exceeded 5,000 million dollars. Moreover, they demand a reduction in Japan's favourable balance of payments with the EEC from 13,000 million dollars to 6,000 million dollars through a sharp rise in Japanese purchases in the Common Market countries.

The Japanese official and business circles have taken an intractable stand towards such demands. They only promised to somewhat cut customs duties on 12 types of commodities coming from EEC countries. Representatives of Japan, referring to internal economic difficulties, have stated to their partners in the negotiations that Japan cannot meet West European demands half-way.

Moreover, the Japanese side does not conceal that the Government of Japan does not intend to limit exports to any extent since, as it says, such a measure can adversely affect employment and the gross national product. In other words, it has been implied to the EEC representatives that Tokyo does not intend to waive its trade and economic policy which brings Japan huge profits.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE GREETS ARISMENDI ON BIRTHDAY

LD231225Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade Rodney Arismendi, first secretary of the Uruguayan Communist Party Central Committee.

Dear Comrade Rodney Arismendi: The CPSU Central Committee sends you, a prominent communist and workers movement figure, fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations on your 60th birthday.

You are known in the Soviet Union as a tireless fighter for the vital interests of the working people of your country against reaction and fascism, as a consistent Leninist-internationalist, as a loyal and tested friend of the Soviet people who has made a great contribution to the development and strengthening of fraternal relations between the Uruguayan Communist Party and the CPSU and of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of our countries.

We wish you, dear Comrade Rodney Arismendi, new creative strength, good health and successes in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

OUTCOME OF GUATEMALAN ELECTION VIEWED AS 'FARCE'

LD231127Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Mikhail Kalashnikov article: "Change of Guard"]

[Text] In Guatemala the results of the presidential elections held 5 March have been announced, several days late. The National Congress has proclaimed General Lucas Garcia, the henchman of the ruling military grouping, as president. Thus another military regime has been mandated to run the country. These regimes have been succeeding one another since 1954, when the progressive government of J. Arbenz was overthrown in Guatemala as a result of U.S. military interference.

Guatemala is a typical example of a Latin American country where the unrestricted omnipotence of the U.S. monopolies is linked with the brutal suppression of all opposition and massive human rights violations. In the last 20 years 30,000 opponents of the regime have been killed. With the effective approval of the authorities armed gangs with titles designed to create a "sinister" effect such as "mano blanca" ("white hand"), "ojo por ojo" ("eye for an eye") and the "anticommunist secret army" are sowing terror among the population, committing murders and organizing the "disappearance" of patriots.

Reaction is striking its main blow against working people's organizations. In 1976 alone, according to information from the Mexican Committee for Solidarity with Guatemala's People, 826 people died at terrorist hands--most of them workers, peasants and farm laborers who opposed the tyranny of the monopolists and landowners. The Guatemalan Labor Party particularly infuriates rightwingers. Party leaders B.A. Monzon and H. Alvarado were villainously murdered in 1972 and 1974.

The U.S. administration which talks endlessly of "defending human rights" gives the successive repressive regimes generous support. Guatemala is among the five Latin American countries which receive most military aid from the United States. Some $6 million was earmarked recently for strengthening the country's police forces. Guatemala has received $410,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development for the creation of...a police academy.

The noisy performance which accompanied the "change of guard" in Guatemala's capital will scarcely have fooled anyone. Less than 33 percent of voters went to the polling stations. Obviously most Guatemalans did not care which of the three aspirants in military uniform, who put forward almost indistinguishable programs, was going to rule the country. The Guatemalan Labor Party, which operates underground, and other progressive organizations disseminated pamphlets urging a boycott of the military dictatorship's latest farce. The terror has not broken the will of Guatemalan patriots to resist the reactionary regime.

LEFT PARTIES APPROVE PERUVIAN POLITICAL AMNESTY

LD231129Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent V. Listov: "Amnesty Declared"]

[Text] Lima, 19 Mar--The Peruvian Government has decided to declare a political amnesty in connection with the forthcoming Constituent Assembly elections in June. This measure envisages, in particular, the lifting of restrictions which have prevented political exiles from returning to the country.

The government's decisions met with the approval of the Peruvian public.

Socialist Revolutionary Party leader Salcedo de la Torre told press representatives that the leftwing political parties welcome this decision although they believe that this step does not go far enough. The lifting of restrictions on the return of political exiles, he said, must be supplemented by the reinstatement of all working people dismissed for participation in strikes or political movements and also by the release of political prisoners.

"The Peruvian Communist Party," Gustavo Espinosa, member of the party's Political Commission, told our correspondent, "approves the decision by the Armed Forces Government. We have fought for this measure together with trade union and mass democratic organizations and with other leftwing parties. This decision enables workers leader Juliano Sierra, who was exiled for political reasons, to return tc Peru. He is included among the Peruvian Communist Party candidates. In the country as a whole more favorable conditions are being created for the participation of progressive and patriotic forces in the forthcoming Constituent Assembly elections."

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA--Moscow, 22 March (TASS)--Dmitriy Musin has been appointed USSR ambassador to Jamaica. He worked as first secretary of the USSR Embassy in Canada, adviser at the USSR Embassy in Great Britain, and USSR ambassador to Australia and Fiji. Yuriy Volskiy, USSR ambassador to the Mexican United States, has been relieved of joint duties as USSR ambassador to Jamaica. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD]

PRAVDA REVIEWS NEW BOOK BY BREZHNEV ON ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

LD212210Y Moscow TASS in English 2207 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 22 TASS--The book "Soviet Trade Unions in the Conditions of Advanced Socialism" written by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU CC and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, is of vast theoretical and practical significance, writes PRAVDA today. Offering a profound and all-round analysis of the place and role of the trade unions of the USSR in communist construction and the development of the international trade union movement, it is a major contribution to the ideological arsenal of the CPSU, its theory and policies.

"The reports, speeches, articles and messages of greetings included in the collection show that the CPSU regards as one of its main concerns the increase of the influence of the trade union organisations in all the spheres of life in our society," says the article. "The trade unions have proved by their deeds that they have been and continue to be the party's reliable support, and a recognised and authoritative organiser of the masses in the building of communism".

The works of Leonid Brezhnev reveal the main features of the Soviet trade unions working in the conditions of advanced socialism, writes PRAVDA.

"Having placed the interests of man at the focus of their activity, the trade unions make their main concern the rise of production as the basis for improving the life of the Soviet people."

"The book gives an all-round analysis of the tasks of the trade unions as a school of class solidarity of the working people and proletarian internationalism and points to the need to further strengthen the world trade union movement on the basis of its principles."

The book also defines the main directions which contribute to intensifying united action of the trade union organisations of the world. The CPSU attaches particular significance to their international links, says the article. "In doing everything to maintain international trade union links, the CPSU proceeds from the assumption that they are one of the main forms for direct participation of the Soviet people in the international working class movement, in strengthening the cohesion and cooperation among the fraternal socialist countries in the struggle for lasting peace and social progress."

CPSU CC SECRETARY RYABOV AWARDED ORDER OF LENIN

LD231526Y Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--Yakov Ryabov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has been awarded an Order of Lenin, the top distinction of the USSR, for his great services to the Communist Party and the Soviet state and also on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

BRIEFS

SUPREME SOVIET AWARDS JOURNAL--By decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the journal ZA RULEM [AT THE WHEEL] has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner for Labor. This is in recognition of its fruitful work in educating the working people in the spirit of Soviet patriotism, in propagandizing scientific and technological knowledge, and in actively assisting in training driving personnel and developing motor and motorcycling sports in the country. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD]

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